REMARKS

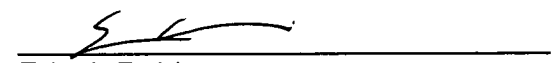
The Official Action mailed October 31, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 6, 2003.

Claims 1-24 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Examiner's restriction, claims 19-24 have been canceled. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-18.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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